

In the matter of DA 02-1594, pertaining to the expansion of local calling areas in Virginia, it is clear that the public interest, convenience and necessity is best served by granting the petition and allowing the local calling improvement. Many once-separate areas have become part of the Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan Area. The restrictions set forth in the establishment of LATA boundaries have been particularly harsh on Leesburg area communities, since they are in neither of the two LATA's of the CMSA. This prevents the residents or businesses of this area from obtaining FX or reasonably-priced leased lines to the larger community of which they have become part.

The only objection to improved local calling comes from the greed of long-distance companies who are financially benefiting from the misfortune of citizens in communities whose local areas are mostly not in their local calling areas. The tiny incidental amounts of profit which IXC's make from small LATA-boundary towns doesn't hold a candle to the overwhelming public interest in allowing people to easily call their friends, neighbours, employers, childrens' schools, and other essential community service providers. Clearly, people in the Catoctin area derive many of their basic needs from the LATA 236 communities of Northern Virginia.

Leesburg has already been given this necessary relief; similarly situated Catoctin deserves the same consideration.

...Sam Brown